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THE STUTTERING RECRUIT; *or, a good, though laughable reason for not entering the army.*—During the revolutionary war, when drafts were made from the militia to recruit the continental army, a certain captain gave liberty to the men who were drafted from his company, to make their objections, if they had any, against going into service. Accordingly one of them, who had an impediment in his speech, came forward and made his bow.

‘What is your objection?’ said the captain.

‘I ca-ca-can’t go,’ answered the man, ‘Ise st-st-stutters.’

‘Stutters!’ said the captain, ‘you don’t go there to talk, but to fight.’

‘Ay, but they’ll p-p-put me on g-g-guard, and a man may go ha-ha-half a mile before I can say wh-wh-who goes there?’

‘O, that is no objection, for they will place some other sentry with you. He can challenge, and you can fire.’

‘Well, b-b-but I may be ta-ta-taken, and run through the g-g-guts before I can cry qu-qu-quarters.’

This last plea prevailed; and the captain, laughing heartily, dismissed him.

PETITIONS BY THE AMERICAN PEACE SOCIETY.

I. PETITION TO CONGRESS.

To the Honorable the Senate of the United States:*

The American Peace Society beg leave respectfully to address your Honorable Body on a subject involving the resources and stability of the Republic, and the personal security and happiness of every citizen.

Neither facts nor arguments are needed at the present time to prove that WAR is one of the direct calamities to which mankind are subject. Its multiplied and aggravated evils are acknowledged and deprecated by all. The only professed justification of war is, that it averts a still greater evil. We stop not to inquire how far this plea is urged in good faith, nor how far it is supported by the testimony of history. We come before your Honorable Body to ask your adoption of a measure having all the conservative influence ascribed to war, without its horrors and devastations, and thus to illustrate both the present age, already so distinguished for the benefits it has conferred on the human family, and the American character, renowned for its practical adaptation to the removal of existing evils.

Whatever opinion your memorialists may entertain of the wisdom and efficacy of military preparation as a means of securing the blessings of peace, they ask no action of your Honorable Body in reference to the army and navy; nor do they propose any measures in the slightest degree impairing the ability of the nation to repel aggression. They merely request your countenance for a simple, efficacious mode of averting war, which, without making the smallest sacrifice of national honor, will secure the just claims of the country with far greater certainty than the ever doubtful arbitration of the sword.

However friendly may be our present relations with other powers, causes of complaint will no doubt hereafter arise to interrupt the existing amity. If, as many suppose, it is the dictate of wisdom, “in peace prepare for war,” surely it is the dictate of a far higher wisdom, “*in peace prepare to prevent war.*”

We are now at peace with all the nations of the earth; and both our power, and our extended and coveted commerce are guarantees that any proposition we may in the spirit of amity make to foreign governments, will be respectfully received, and deliberately considered. The high and peculiar

* A similar petition has been sent to the House of Representatives.

position now occupied by the United States in the family of nations, encourages, if it does not morally require them, to make an effort to maintain those pacific relations which so greatly enhance their prosperity and influence, and which cannot be interrupted without occasioning a vast amount of suffering both to themselves and to others. There is happily a proposition for effecting this great object, which may be made to foreign governments without exciting jealousy or ill-will, and which, if accepted in a single instance, would secure to us the future amity of the accepting party without giving offence to others. This proposition is simply an invitation to enter into a treaty with us, binding the contracting parties, in the contingency of any future difference which cannot be satisfactorily adjusted by negotiation, to refer the same to the decision of an umpire selected for the purpose, and to abide by the award that shall be made in pursuance of such reference.

In such a compact there could of course be no sacrifice of national honor, and it is nearly impossible there should be any of national interest. The proposed reference is to be made only after negotiation has been tried and proved fruitless, and when arbitration or war is the only alternative. A submission to the award being required by plighted faith, would, instead of involving disgrace, be an illustration of national honor and integrity. The submission, moreover, by guarding our commerce from interruption and spoliation, by rescuing our resources from a wasteful and profitless expenditure, and by saving multitudes of our citizens from wretchedness and slaughter, could not fail to be far more advantageous than a war not only uncertain in its duration and results, but inevitably attended with extended and complicated suffering.

Considerations like these induce your memorialists earnestly to beseech your Honorable Body to embrace the enviable opportunity you enjoy of introducing a new era of peace and happiness among the nations of the earth, and of conferring on our own country the moral glory of diffusing "peace on earth, and good will among men." In the name of patriotism, humanity and religion, we ask, we entreat your Honorable Body formally to declare your conviction, that it would be expedient for the executive department of the government to enter into communication with foreign powers, inviting them to form treaties with the United States binding the contracting parties in the event of any future misunderstanding which cannot be adjusted by negotiation, to refer the subject to the decision of an umpire to be appointed for the occasion.

In presenting this prayer we are greatly encouraged by the reflection that it has heretofore received a most favorable response from two committees of your Honorable Body. In 1851, Mr. Foote, of Mississippi, as Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations, by the unanimous order of the Committee, reported—"that it would be proper and desirable for the government of these United States, whenever practicable, to secure in its treaties with other nations, a provision for referring to the decision of umpires, all future misunderstandings, that cannot be satisfactorily settled by amicable negotiation." In February 1853, Mr. Underwood, of Kentucky, on behalf of a similar committee, presented an able and interesting report in support of the following resolution, recommended by the Committee, viz:—"That the Senate advise the President to secure, whenever it may be practicable, a stipulation in all treaties hereafter entered into with other nations, providing for the adjustment of any misunderstanding or controversy which may arise between the contracting parties, by referring the same to the decision of disinterested and impartial arbitrators to be mutually appointed."

We presume your Honorable Body is already apprised, that during the last year, resolutions fully approving the same measure, have been passed by the Legislatures of Vermont, Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut, with entire unanimity, we believe, in every instance except one; and from

the results in these cases, as well as from other sources of information, we have reason to believe, that most of our State Legislatures, if not all, would pass similar resolves, if the subject were brought in like manner before them.

A similar proposition was introduced into the British Parliament in response to the prayer of 200,000 petitioners, and, notwithstanding it was discountenanced by the Ministry, received the support of eighty members. The friends of the measure in England, are chiefly to be found in the ranks of those who are distinguished as the advocates of popular rights, and who are anxious to relieve the PEOPLE from the accumulated and onerous burthens imposed on them by war.

In the several Peace Congresses held in Europe, consisting of delegates from various countries, the plan of Stipulated Arbitration has been warmly recommended. The first legislative step towards this desired consummation has been taken by the Committees of your House. To the National Legislature of the American Republic, may the high honor belong of being the first to propose to the nations of the earth, a measure so fraught with blessings to the human family.

If, however, your Honorable Body should unfortunately deem such an experiment too bold and hazardous, and should decline to recommend a measure which would deprive the government of the chance of enforcing its claims by a resort to arms, then would your memorialists prefer a second prayer. If our country is to remain exposed to the calamities of war, surely all will unite with us in desiring that these calamities may not be inconsiderately invoked in a moment of popular excitement, but that time should be allowed for reflection before two nations rush into the direful struggle of mutual destruction. The measure we have proposed, we believe to be perfectly consistent with the honor and safety, and highly conducive to the happiness of our country. But should it unhappily be found that in this opinion we differ from your Honorable Body, then we ask, and we ask in confidence and in hope, that you will be pleased, by a formal resolution, to express your approbation of treaties stipulating for the reference to arbitration of all future international questions which cannot be settled by negotiation, and restricting the contracting parties from commencing hostilities against each other until six months after notice shall have been given by either contracting party, that the award is unsatisfactory, and will not be accepted.

In this way, where war is not averted, it will at least be delayed. Time will be given for reason to resume the sway which passion had usurped, and opportunity will be afforded to merchants and others to seek refuge from the coming tempest. A vast amount of property will be saved from destruction, many lives will be spared, and in various ways the horrors and calamities of war will be greatly mitigated.

All which is respectfully submitted by order of the Executive Committee,

WILLIAM JAY, *President.*

L. T. STODDARD, *Chair. Ex. Com.*

GEO. C. BECKWITH, *Cor. Secretary.*

WM. C. BROWN, *Rec. Secretary.*

Boston, December 1st, 1853.

II. PETITION TO THE PRESIDENT.

To the President of the United States :

Sir:—In behalf of the American Peace Society, we ask leave to call your attention to a subject most intimately connected with the prosperity and happiness of our common country, and in relation to which Providence has given you the means of exercising a powerful and beneficial influence.

However necessary war may be deemed for the protection and mainte-

nance of national rights, all are ready to admit that in itself it is one of the most grievous calamities to which the human family can be subjected. If, therefore, a safe and peaceful substitute for war can be devised, patriotism, humanity and religion, all unite in demanding its adoption. Such a substitute for protecting the rights and settling the disputes of individuals, is found in the judgments of Courts of Justice; and, although no similar courts exist for the decision of national controversies, it is nevertheless in the power of any two nations to constitute a court to sit in judgment on the disputes that may arise between them.

A mutual reference of an existing difference to the decision of one or more independent and impartial umpires, is not of unfrequent occurrence in our own history; and in every instance in which such a reference has been made, the result, it is believed, has been far more beneficial even to the defeated party, than success would have been, if obtained at the price of blood and treasure which war would have exacted. The chief reason why such references, so congenial with the civilization and enlightened spirit of the age, have not been more frequent, is, that the excitement and irritation caused by national disputes, generally lead to hasty collisions, and prevent that cool deliberation which might have preferred an appeal to the candor and honor of arbitrators, instead of the uncertain and calamitous decision of the sword. The only mode in which these hasty and irreparable conflicts can be prevented, is to provide for the settlement of *future* disputes as they arise.

A very general desire is now felt both in Europe and America, for what are called Treaties of Stipulated Arbitration. It is proposed that, whenever a treaty on any subject is concluded between two nations, it shall include a clause, providing that, if any misunderstanding shall arise as to the interpretation of the treaty, or in relation to any other matter, which cannot be settled by amicable negotiation, neither of the contracting parties shall resort to hostilities against the other, but that by a convention, the question at issue shall be submitted to one or more arbitrators, whose award shall be final. Already have two Committees of the Senate, and five State Legislatures recommended the insertion of such a clause in our future treaties. Most respectfully, but most earnestly do we pray, Sir, that you will take this proposed substitute for war into favorable consideration, and give it the high sanction of your official recommendation; more especially that, in the important treaty now pending between Great Britain and the United States, you will propose to the British Government the insertion of a provision for referring to the decision of umpires, all future misunderstandings that cannot be satisfactorily adjusted by negotiation.

On behalf of the American Peace Society, we have the honor to be,

Your very obedient servants,

WM. JAY, *President.*

L. T. STODDARD, *Chair. of Exec. Com.*

GEO. C. BECKWITH, *Cor. Secretary.*

WM. C. BROWN, *Rec. Secretary.*

Boston. November 23, 1853.

SUMNER ON PEACE.—Our friends will all remember the admirable Address of Hon. Charles Sumner before our Society in 1849. We published at the time some seven or eight thousand copies; and we have just issued 4000 more of a carefully revised edition, together with Judge Underwood's excellent Report to the Senate of the United States on Stipulated Arbitration; making, in an elegant octavo pamphlet of 80 pages, the fullest, ablest and most satisfactory exposition of our cause, as a practical movement,

that has perhaps ever been given in the same compass. It is not only a very valuable work in itself, but just the thing for the present exigencies of our cause; and we earnestly hope our friends will procure it not merely for their own use, but for gratuitous circulation. For the latter purpose, it will be sold at \$7 a hundred; hardly enough to cover the cost of printing, but offered at this rate to insure its speedy circulation.

Receipts to December 1, 1853.

Bangor, Me., Isaac Farrar,	10,00		No. Weymouth, P. Blanch-		
Edward Dole,	2,00		ard,	2,00	
J. T. K. Hayward,	3,00		Cotton Lovell,	3,00	
Isaac M. Bragg,	2,00		E. Humphrey,	5,00	
W. Arnold,	2,00		James Jones,	3,00	
Nathl. Harlow,	2,00		Lemuel Humphrey,	3,00	
Nathl. Stevens,	2,00		Joseph Loud,	2,00	
S. T. Pearson,	2,00		Others,	9,50	27,50
Others in smaller sums,	23,00	48,00	Methuen, John Davis,	3,00	
Athens, Ga., Rev. Dr. Hoyt,		3,00	R. C. Gleason,	3,00	
Sharon, Lewis Morse,	3,00		David Merrill,	2,00	
John M. Sanger,	3,00		Joseph Howe,	2,00	
Benj. Ide,	2,00		J. F. Ingalls,	2,00	
Otis Johnson,	2,00		Washington Merrill,	3,00	
Others,	1,00	11,00	Chas. Ingalls,	2,00	
Easton, Oliver Ames,	10,00		Henry Spencer,	2,00	
Oakes Ames,	5,00		Others,	5,50	24,50
Martin Wild,	2,00		Georgetown, Mary Nelson,	3,00	
E. J. W. Morse,	3,00		H. P. Claffin,	2,00	
Milo M. Williams,	1,00	21,00	C. G. Tyler,	5,00	
No. Bridgewater, Henry			Geo. J. Tenney,	5,00	
Howard,	5,00		John Bagley,	2,00	
M. Faxon,	3,00		Wm. Boynton,	2,00	
Franklin Ames,	3,00		Others in smaller sums,	19,00	38,00
Eliphalet Kingman,	2,00		Woodssocket, R. I., S.		
Wm. F. Brett,	2,00		Newton,	2,00	
Others,	5,00	20,00	John Osborne,	1,00	3,00
E. Bridgewater, Joseph			Slatersville, R. I., Jabez		
Shaw,	4,00		Lathe,	2,00	
John Richards,	2,00		David Dresser,	2,00	
John Soule,	4,00		Geo. W. Holt,	2,00	
Alvan Shaw,	2,00		Ruth Slater,	2,00	
Others,	6,00	18,00	A. Holman,	3,00	
So. Dedham, John Morse,	3,00		Geo. W. Smith,	2,00	
John L. Morse,	3,00		Others,	4,00	17,00
Curtis G. Morse,	5,00		Blackstone, H. C. Kimball,		2,00
Otis Morse,	2,00		Providence, R. I., Dr. Way-		
Ezra Morse,	2,00		land,	20,00	
Lewis S. Rhoades,	2,00		H. N. Slater,	25,00	
Others,	2,00	19,00	Benj. White,	20,00	
Campello, Chas. Keith,	5,00		Saml. Boyd Tobey,	10,00	
Spencer W. Noyes,	4,00		Gilbert Congdon,	10,00	
Bela Keith,	3,00		W. J. Cross,	10,00	
Others,	3,00	15,00	W. J. King,	10,00	
New Milford, Ct., D. C.			W. S. Greene,	5,00	
Sanford,	5,00		A. C. Barstow,	8,00	
St. Albans, Vt., L. R.			Josiah Chapin,	5,00	
Brainerd,	5,00		S. S. Wardwell,	2,00	
Concord, N. H., collected			H. P. Knight,	2,00	
or contributed by Mrs.			T. Salisbury,	2,00	
Abigail Ladd,		10,00	J. H. Mason,	3,00	
Weymouth Landing, Sam-			John Kingsbury,	2,00	
uel Newcomb,	5,00		W. C. Snow,	2,00	
W. Loud,	2,00		E. W. Fletcher,	3,00	
N. Fifield,	2,50		Others,	4,00	143,00
Elijah Pierce,	3,00		Farmington, Ct., collected		
A. N. Hunt,	2,00		in Cong. church,		15,11
Others,	4,50	19,00			